

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before the heading “Brief Description of the Invention”, at page 2, line 8, please insert the following new paragraph:

Of the commercial cultivars known to the Inventor, the most similar in comparison to the new *Ficus* cultivar ‘Black Diamond’ is the *Ficus* cultivar ‘Indigo’ (U.S. Plant Patent No. 9,491). The *Ficus* cultivar ‘Indigo’ was discovered and selected by the Inventor, and is the parental cultivar of ‘Midnight’ which is the parental cultivar of ‘Black Diamond’. Side-by-side comparisons between ‘Black Diamond’ and ‘Indigo’ were conducted by the Inventor, and the two *Ficus* cultivars differ primarily with respect to the variegated spot pattern along the mid-rib of the plant foliage. First, the variegated spot pattern along the mid-rib of the foliage in ‘Black Diamond’ is more pronounced than in ‘Indigo’. Second, the RHS color designation of the variegated spot in ‘Indigo’ is green (RHS 137C to 137D), whereas the RHS color designation of the variegated spot in ‘Black Diamond’ is yellow-green (RHS 144A). Third, the yellow-green variegated spot color of ‘Black Diamond’ is more pronounced in contrast to the dark green color (RHS 137A) of the foliage surface. Fourth, the growth and branching habit of the ‘Black Diamond’ is regular and upright, whereas the growth and branching habit of ‘Indigo’ is extremely vigorous with somewhat irregular branching.